

State Quality Improvement Committee

Meeting Dates:	April 26, 2010 May 24, 2010 June 28, 2010	Review and Action Plan	Follow-up
		<p><i>July 1, 2010, are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Unbundling, which means the federal government (CMS) has been paying for services at a single daily rate, including a variety of services. CMS will no longer pay daily rates for these services and will no longer fund "supervision" while children are in care (this is about \$18 million in funding). The State Legislature helped fill this gap with \$15 million during the last session, with almost half of that being in ongoing funds.</i> ➤ <i>We had an internal billing process in which we reimbursed the Department of Health for their services. Under the corrective action plan, Medicaid providers need to bill directly for their services. This is a much more cumbersome billing process for providers. This may cause problems for DCFS and JJS' internal billing process and more work for the caseworkers. This affects all outpatient mental health services.</i> ➤ <i>CMS considers any facility with more than 16 beds to be an institution. Medicaid will not pay for any services provided by these "institutions". Most of the facilities</i> 	<p><i>being stepped down, adoption disruptions, etc.). Reba suggested tracking the children who currently are in residential treatment and see how these changes affect them.</i></p> <p><i>The committee would like to have a follow-up presentation (November or December).</i></p>

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		<p><i>in Utah fit into this institution definition. This change has been the most difficult to bring into line with the corrective action plan. Utah has now created a process to certify facilities so that children from out of state can be placed in those institutions, but DCFS and JJS cannot place any children in these facilities or their services must be paid for with general funds. This could become a budget nightmare.</i></p> <p><i>Workgroups were created to look at these required changes and how the needs of these children will be met. A new service design was created for DCFS and JJS. Children will be stepped down out of residential treatment as quickly as possible. All contracts have needed to be reworked, which has required all providers to change the way they provide services. This caused concern that we may not have residential beds for children. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued with a competitive bid process, and the JJS "graduated sanctions model" is being utilized. Categories and levels have been created for the treatment model (sex offender, mental health, substance dependant, behavioral disorders, and cognitively impaired, with a</i></p>	

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		<p><i>high/moderate/low level in each area.)</i></p> <p><i>The RFP process was revised to include a competitive bid process and implementation of a guaranteed bed payment methodology. This has provided an incentive for providers. RFP submissions are currently being evaluated at this time.</i></p> <p><i>Some of our larger facilities (such as Primary Children's) have not submitted proposals, which will cause problems for where we place children. When a child is placed in one of these facilities, they lose all Medicaid funding (medical, dental, etc.) for as long as they are placed there. These facilities may receive contracts that include funding with 100% general funds. Judges often times order children into specific facilities and this may be a problem in the future.</i></p> <p><i>Internal changes being made as a result of the corrective action plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>DCFS, JJS, and Mental Health and Substance Abuse agencies are working on creating mental health screening committees.</i> ➤ <i>An assessment tool (CANS assessment) will be used to assess</i> 	

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		<p><i>the needs of the child.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The In-Home Services program area is being strengthened to provide supports to families before placements are needed.</i> ➤ <i>Age breakouts are being changed for payments to foster parents (0-5 years, 6-11 years, and 12 years and up).</i> ➤ <i>Payment codes are being collapsed.</i> ➤ <i>Proctor care is being changed to fit the needs of proctor families, to include an option for day treatment. Placement of siblings has been clarified to allow siblings to be placed in a proctor home with payment being at the normal foster care rate.</i> ➤ <i>Region directors are working with the judges to educate the judges about these changes.</i> ➤ <i>Clinical teams may be funded to help support providers.</i> <p><i>The transition piece may be difficult as the contracting process has been pushed back while waiting for clarifications from CMS. Children are still placed in "institutions" and placements will need to be found for those children. DCFS and JJS children are not supposed to be placed together in facilities.</i></p>	

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		<p><i>Transitions for children will be planned for as much as possible. Facilities will be aided to get them down to 16 beds or under. Some of the larger institutions are creating 16-bed facilities for children in care, but we may not have enough to fit the need.</i></p> <p><i>Cosette said that once the dust settles and in the long run, we hope to have a better model of service for children in care. During the transition, the children with the greatest needs are the main concern to make sure they get the treatment they need. Cosette explained that these changes affect not only children in care, but all citizens of Utah who are utilizing Medicaid. These changes are also affecting our interstate placements.</i></p>	
Public Relations:	April 26, 2010	<p>Charri talked about the 2010 and 2011 budget recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For fiscal year 2010, Child and Family Services is looking at about \$3.7 million in reductions. Child and Family Services will get a \$1.1 million backfill, plus move monies from the Children's Trust Fund and domestic violence funding. At the end of this year, Child and Family Services will end with a surplus, which will help fill the remaining budget reductions for 	<p>The legislative website is www.le.state.ut.us, where you can follow any bills you are interested in.</p>

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		<p>the 2010 budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For fiscal year 2011, it has been recommended by Health and Human Services Appropriations that there be approximately \$5 million in cuts, including \$1.9 million from caseworkers (losing about 36 caseworkers and increasing caseloads by one case per caseworker), \$2 million from non-case carrying workers (losing about 37 FTEs including supervisors, support staff, eligibility workers, etc.), and a State Administration loss of \$137,400 (will not fill existing openings). Also reduced domestic violence monies, adoption assistance funds, SAFE system funding, and rent (consolidation of offices). The Medicaid unbundling will be backfilled by approximately \$12 million. <p>Charri then talked about bills that are being tracked by Child and Family Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HB86 entails that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will not do "conflict of interest" investigations, but they will be contracted out to a private entity. ➤ HB133 addresses who can view audio 	

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	May 24, 2010	<p>and video tapes of interviews with children taken at Children's Justice Center (CJCs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HB170 addresses foster parent due process procedures when a foster child is removed from the foster parents' home. ➤ HB235 addresses the Office of Recovery Services collecting child support when a child is in state's custody, and that child is staying with their parent for more than seven days in a month. ➤ HB239 allows for law enforcement to interview children without a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) when consent is given by the GAL, and also addresses performance monitoring of Child and Family Services. Also, it would allow for a 90-day extension for reunification when specific circumstances exist. ➤ HB256 talks about child abuse data elements and what is included in the Licensing database portion of SAFE. ➤ SB42 would extend retirement for state employees. ➤ SB43 disallows double-dipping of state employees. ➤ There is also a bill that addresses issues for youth who are aging out of 	<p><i>Chris asked that the results of the Eastern QCReview be presented to the committee, in light of their System of Care model</i></p>

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		<p>care, who need to keep their Medicaid intact, and who cannot have more than \$2,000 in assets.</p> <p><i>Rick introduced Brent Platt as the new DCFS director. All committee members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role on the committee. Rick asked Brent to explain his ideas of the role of QICs, especially the State QIC. Brent explained that there are two areas that he would like us to focus on: 1) returning children home from foster care or preventing them from coming into foster care; and 2) involving the community in the system of care and helping community partners realize that children in foster care are their children too. Somehow we need to get community partners to invest in the children, not just DCFS. Trisha appreciates the idea of redefining the role of DCFS and feels this will be helpful with legislators and the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel. Katie stated that there will be a meeting held in Provo in June about the Grandfamilies program, which assists children that have not been in DCFS custody. Jenny explained that there is a real need for community resources for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) population and that the Pride Center</i></p>	

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		<p><i>would be a partner in the system of care.</i></p> <p><i>Rick stated that one of the priority focus areas the committee will be looking at is In-Home Services. He asked about the current status of family preservation services. Reba said that the David C. lawsuit put the focus on foster care, so In-Home Services programs were put on the back burner. DCFS is now in a position to focus on In-Home Services. Brent explained that last fall a group was brought together to redefine In-Home Services for DCFS. This will be continued under Brent's leadership. Community outreach will be a large part of the In-Home Services model for DCFS. Eastern Region has been piloting a "System of Care" model, and this region will be reviewed in May for their QCR.</i></p> <p><u>Review progress on "The interface between DCFS and the Office of Licensing"</u></p> <p><i>Rick delayed sending the letter to DCFS Administration until a new director was appointed. Rick let Brent know that he will be receiving a letter from the State QIC with recommendations around this issue.</i></p> <p><i>Julie explained that there is funding available for people from the Drug</i></p>	<p><i>Julie will let the State QIC know when these meetings have been confirmed. Reba would like to help plan for these at the quarterly meeting in May held for the chairs of the QICs.</i></p>

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	June 28, 2010	<p><i>Endangered Children (DEC) group from Salt Lake City to attend Regional QIC meetings as part of ongoing partnership forums, including representatives from law enforcement, health care, etc. These meetings are being scheduled for the Regional QICs in Cedar City, Moab, and hopefully others.</i></p> <p><i>The group discussed how families caring for their grandchildren have trouble getting any help unless DCFS becomes involved. This is especially hard for families with drug addiction problems. Trisha would like to see what affect various prescription drugs are having on families in Utah. The legislature set up a committee of experts to make their recommendations about what drugs should be scheduled as controlled substances so the Utah Legislature can put these into law. They are also worked on making the language consistent throughout Utah statute.</i></p> <p><i>Foster parents have expressed concern about receiving notice of upcoming court hearings. There is a list in Utah statute of who shall be notified of court hearings, which includes the child. A process needs to be put in place that foster parents can receive this notice. Brent explained that all regions have been asked to take this to their</i></p>	<p><u>Reba will ask someone from DCFS (Patti VanWagoner or Tanya Albornoz) to attend the meeting and talk about this issue.</u></p> <p><i>The QIC would like to be involved and help enhance this process. Rick will send out his PowerPoint presentation to all committee members that he uses to educate people around the rights of foster parents and children to attend and be heard at court hearings. He will also get the DVD from Misty Butler and send to all committee members.</i></p>

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		<p><i>regional administrative teams for review.</i></p> <p>Foster Parent Notice of Upcoming Court Hearings:</p> <p><i>Tanya said that is item this is being reviewed on the upcoming Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and will be incorporated into our Program Improvement Plan (PIP). SAFE can generate emails to ask workers to notify foster parents of upcoming hearings, with a letter attached that the caseworker can send to the foster parents. Getting the email addresses into SAFE and keeping them current is a challenge at this time. Jenny asked if it was known how many foster parents have access to email or if this will be a challenge too. We may want to look at other forms of communication. Tanya said that if there is no email address for the foster parent, a letter will be sent to their address.</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer said that Utah Foster and Adoptive Family Association (UFAFA) sent a survey to all foster parents that they currently have email addresses for, and they received a good response rate with good regional representative. As for the question on the survey that addressed if the foster parents were invited to the court hearing, most expressed that they were not notified. The</i></p>	<p><i>The Court Improvement Project summit is coming soon, and Rick will ask if they can present this information during that summit.</i></p> <p><i>DCFS and UFAFA will continue to gather email addresses for foster parents to get this information entered into SAFE.</i></p>

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		<p><i>goal for UFAFA is that 100% are invited over 75% of the time. Tanya has been letting caseworkers know that foster parents have the right to be invited to the court hearings and may also give their input to the judge. Each region has been asked to let their caseworkers know that this is the case.</i></p> <p><i>The survey also showed low numbers on caseworkers asking for feedback for the court report. Jennifer suggested adding an item on the court report to say, "feedback received from foster parents". Tanya said that one of the challenges has been that children miss school to attend the hearings, which is frowned upon.</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer stated that foster parents are also not aware of how to contact their Guardian ad Litem (GAL) or Attorney General (AG). Rick asked that the full survey results be shared with the committee. Tanya stated that it is more important that foster parents know how to contact their GAL as they are the attorney for the foster child.</i></p> <p><i>Rick stated that youth in care also have the right to attend a court hearing and to give their input into court hearings, with no</i></p>	

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		<p><i>minimum age requirement. If it will be detrimental for the child to be there, the GAL and judge will make the decision to not include them in the hearing. Tanya said there has been much discussion around what age group is appropriate. Rick said that juvenile courts usually send out one notice to the first hearing, with no further notices being sent.</i></p> <p><i>Tanya said that other states are still tackling this issue. She has addressed this issue with a regional QIC to see if a room could be created where children could wait in a more appropriate setting. Rick said that in some areas of the state, the courts have actually done this. The GAL's office has also been working on this for the past year or so.</i></p> <p><i>Julie said that the Christmas Box House held a forum where children expressed that one of their biggest fears revolves around the court process.</i></p>	
CPS Issues:	April 26, 2010	Charri explained that there is currently a group working on CPS issues, including people from each Child and Family Services region, SAFE, and State Administration. A proposal will be made for a statewide, centralized Intake system. This will help standardize	

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		<i>fulfill in Utah. The Safety Model is being implemented in two phases, which has experienced some delays.</i>	
QCR Participation:			
Fatality Review:			
Other Business:	June 28, 2010	<p><i>Jenny said that Listening Forums were conducted in 2003 and 2004 all across the nation for children in care and for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Questioning (LGBTQ) children. These will be conducted again in July and August in six locations across the state. They are currently recruiting co-sponsors for these forums. Jenny passed around a handout to committee members for their information, which included upcoming dates and locations. Jenny said that they are asking for foster parents and others who have any perspective on LGBTQ related issues to be present at the forums. The information is being sent to foster parents and caseworkers, and an on-line survey may be made available. Rick asked that Jenny send all committee members the materials so he can share the information with the GALs.</i></p> <p><i>Once the forums are concluded, information</i></p>	<p>Jenny will send information about the listening forums to Reba to distribute to committee members.</p> <p>Tina will share information with Tribes.</p>

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		<i>that was learned will be shared in a publication. A conference will be held in October for LGBTQ youth that will hopefully contain information learned from the forums, along with quantitative and qualitative data.</i>	